

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 EC BRU 00738 051814Z

50

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 EURE-00 FEA-02 INT-08 SCI-06 DRC-01 NEA-11

AF-10 SS-20 NSC-10 OIC-04 AEC-11 AECE-00 AGR-20 /230 W

----- 069506

P R 051730Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6392

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 0738

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, EEC

SUBJ: FEBRUARY 4-5 COUNCIL MEETING (FOREIGN MINISTERS) -
HIGHLIGHTS OF FIRST DAY

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (FOREIGN MINISTERS)
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DISCUSSED AT LENGTH THE STATE OF THE
COMMUNITY ON FEBRUARY 4, THE FIRST DAY OF A TWO-DAY MEETING.
WHILE THE MINISTERS AGREED THE COMMUNITY FACED DIFFICULTIES,
THERE WAS NO CONSENSUS THAT THE SITUATION WAS CRITICAL. THE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 EC BRU 00738 051814Z

MINISTERS DECIDED THAT THE PRESIDENTS OF THE COUNCIL AND OF THE

COMMISSION SHOULD COLLABORATE IN PREPARING A PAPER ON THE STATE OF THE COMMUNITY FOR DISCUSSION AT ONE OF THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETINGS. THE COUNCIL ALSO DISCUSSED THE STRENGTHENING OF THE BUDGETARY POWERS OF THE PARLIAMENT, THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS OF THE COUNCIL, AND THE REPORT ON EUROPEAN UNION. THE COUNCIL ALSO ADOPTED A RESOLUTION CONCERNING EC RELATIONS WITH THE FROE ISLANDS. THE COUNCIL RESUMED ITS MEETING ON FEBRUARY 5 AND IS NOW DISCUSSING THE COMMUNITY'S POSITION FOR THE ENERGY CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON. IT WILL ALSO CONSIDER MEDITERRANEAN POLICY LATER TODAY. END SUMMARY.

2. STATE OF THE COMMUNITY. IN A LENGTHY AND FRANK DISCUSSION, THE MINISTERS DISCUSSED THE STATE OF THE COMMUNITY TAKING AS THEIR POINTS OF DEPARTURE THE STATEMENTS BY BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE (BASED ON HIS EARLIER REMARKS TO THE PRESS-BRUSSELS 594) AND COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI (BASED ON THE COMMISSION'S DECLARATION ON THE STATE OF THE COMMUNITY-- EC BRUSSELS 657). THE UK, GERMANY AND FRANCE (REPRESENTED BY STATE SECRETARY DE LIPKOWSKI; FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT IS PRESENT FOR THE FEBRUARY 5 DISCUSSION) TOOK THE POSITION THAT WHILE DIFFICULTIES EXISTED IN THE COMMUNITY, THESE PROBLEMS SHOULD NOT BE OVER-DRAMATIZED. THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SMALLER MEMBER STATES ARGUED THAT THE COMMUNITY WAS IN A CRITICAL STATE, INCAPABLE OF ANY CONCRETE ACTION, ALL THE MINISTERS AGREED THAT THEIR GOAL SHOULD BE COMMON ACTION IN THE COMMON INTEREST, AND THAT THE USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS THEY HAD HAD ON THE SUBJECT SHOULD BE CONTINUED.

3. THE MINISTERS ASKED COUNCIL PRESIDENT SCHEEL AND COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI TO COLLABORATE IN THE PREPARATION OF A PAPER WHICH WOULD BE THE BASIS FOR A RENEWED DISCUSSION OF THE SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY AT ONE OF THE NEXT COUNCIL SESSIONS (POSSIBLY ON MARCH 4-5). IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT THE SAME PAPER SHOULD ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE COUNCIL'S DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURES. SCHEEL EXPRESSED THE PERSONAL VIEW THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD TURN MORE MATTERS OVER TO THE COMMISSION FOR DECISION WITH SUBSEQUENT COUNCIL APPROVAL UNDER THE POINT A PROCEDURE, NAMELY APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL WITHOUT DISCUSSION. (COMMENT: SCHEEL PRESUMABLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 EC BRU 00738 051814Z

MEANT TO INCLUDE THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN HIS REFERENCE TO THE COMMISSION.) AT A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING LATE MONDAY EVENING, SCHEEL STRUCK AN UP-BEAT NOTE ON THE STATE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, POINTING OUT THAT THE COMMUNITY HAD FACED DIFFICULT TIMES IN THE PAST BUT THAT NEW FORCE HAD BEEN DRAWN OUT OF THOSE DIFFICULTIES EACH TIME TO OVERCOME THE CRISIS SITUATION. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FELT THAT THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PRESENT

SITUATION SHOULD NOT BE HIDDEN, BUT AT THE SAME TIME IT SHOULD NOT BE OVERDRAWN. IN A RATHER OBLIQUE CRITICISM OF RECENT PRESS REPORTS OF "CRISIS IN THE COMMUNITY", SCHEEL SAID THAT OBSERVERS OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY HAVE HAD A NEGATIVE INFLUENCE ON THE SITUATION, "MAKING IT WORSE".

4. INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS. THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE STRENGTHENING OF THE PARLIAMENT'S BUDGETARY POWERS BUT REACHED NO DECISIONS DURING MONDAY'S SESSION. AN IMPASSE DEVELOPED OVER GRANTING THE PARLIAMENT THE POWER TO REJECT THE COMMUNITY'S BUDGET IN TOTO. WITH RESPECT TO THE REPORT ON EUROPEAN UNION (WHICH THE 1972 PARIS SUMMIT ASKED THE COMMUNITY'S INSTITUTIONS TO PREPARE), THE COUNCIL INSTRUCTED THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO DRAW UP A FIRST DRAFT.

5. FAROE ISLANDS. THE COUNCIL APPROVED AS A POINT A ITEM A RESOLUTION STATING THAT IT WAS PREPARED TO ADOPT AN ARRANGEMENT PROVIDING FOR THE PROGRESSIVE ELIMINATION OF CUSTOMS DUTIES ON IMPORTS INTO THE COMMUNITY OF PRODUCTS, INCLUDING FISH, ORIGINATING IN AND COMING FROM THE FOROE ISLANDS. THE COUNCIL'S ACTION BECAME NECESSARY AS A RESULT OF THE DECISION OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF THE FOROE ISLANDS THAT THE ISLANDS NOT BECOME PART OF THE COMMUNITIES. UNDER THE ACT OF ACCESSION (ARTICLES 25, 26, 27) THE THREE COMMUNITY TREATIES DID NOT APPLY TO THE ISLANDS WHEN DENMARK BECAME A MEMBER AND THE ISLANDS WERE GIVEN UNTIL THE END OF 1975 TO OPT FOR OR AGAINST FORMAL ENTRY INTO THE COMMUNITIES. PROTOCOL
E E E E E E E

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ECBRU00738
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740256/aaaacabj.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 27 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <31 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FEBRUARY 4-5 COUNCIL MEETING (FOREIGN MINISTERS) - HIGHLIGHTS OF FIRST DAY
TAGS: PGOV, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005